

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Jason William Abney, DOB: 03-24-1979, of Rice Lake, Wisconsin, was sentenced January 23, 2005, by U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz to 240 months in prison for distribution of methamphetamine. Abney pleaded guilty to this charge on October 20, 2005.

The charge against Abney arose from his distribution of methamphetamine in the Rice Lake area between July and September 2004. During this time period, confidential informants made several purchases of methamphetamine from Abney under the direction of law enforcement officers. Investigators also reconstructed the criminal activities of Abney through interviews of his customers and associates. The investigation established that Abney obtained his methamphetamine from various persons in Minnesota and Wisconsin and, in order to facilitate his drug dealing, he carried a firearm and threatened to use it to against the police and others.

On October 29, 2004, Abney was arrested by Rice Lake Police Department officers during a traffic stop. The arresting officers found drug paraphernalia, a digital scale and 500 grams of marijuana in Abney's car.

The charges against Abney were the result of an investigation conducted by the Barron-Rusk Drug Enforcement Unit and Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation - Narcotics Bureau. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter M. Jarosz.

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